Preliminary Amendment Application No. <u>Unassigned</u> Attorney's Docket No. <u>1018775-000986</u> Page 2

Please replace the Abstract with the following amended Abstract:

Preliminary Amendment Application No. <u>Unassigned</u> Attorney's Docket No. <u>1018775-000986</u> Page 3

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A sheet feeder is characterized by comprising a suction carrying means, an oblique carrying means, a handling member, a detecting means located downstream of the handling member and for detecting a sheet passing through the handling member, and a retracting mechanism for retracting the handling member from the sheet passing through while the detecting means is detecting the sheet passing through.